

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, July 28, 2006

EARLIER, 10 PM CURFEW GOES INTO EFFECT ON MONDAY NIGHT, JULY 31

Mayor Williams announced this week that on Monday, July 31, an alternative curfew for young people age 16 and under goes into effect. Beginning that evening, curfew hours will be set from 10 pm to 6 am, every day of the week. These curfew hours will last for 30 consecutive days and expire on Wednesday, August 30 at 11:59 pm. After that date, curfew hours will revert to the hours currently in place pursuant to the Juvenile Curfew Act, unless a subsequent Mayor's Order is issued to extend the 30-day period. "Too often, young people are becoming involved in violent crimes," said Mayor Williams. "This earlier curfew hour is necessary in order to protect them from becoming victims of crime or from becoming involved in crimes at night." On July 21, the DC Council passed the Enhanced Crime Prevention and Abatement Emergency Amendment Act of 2006, giving the Mayor the authority to set alternative curfew hours. The curfew changes are part of Mayor Williams's emergency anti-crime legislation, which centers on providing the MPDC with funds to deploy officers on a six-day work week. The extra manpower means at least 300 more uniformed officers on the streets. The plan also authorizes the expansion of closed circuit television cameras to be used in some neighborhoods for both crime prevention and investigation, and it provides police with greater access to information about serious juvenile offenders. "While a curfew is no panacea, it's an important way to help our police keep the streets safe," said Mayor Williams.

- ① See the news release at:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=512000>
- ① Read the official notification of the curfew hour changes at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,560486,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,_.asp
- ① Details on DC's curfew are at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547375,mpdcNav_GID,1541,mpdcNav,_.asp

DC GEARS UP FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 1

Thousands of DC residents are expected to join with their neighbors, police officers and other community leaders in celebrating National Night Out this Tuesday, August 1. From community cookouts to open houses – block parties, candlelight vigils and athletic events – DC is gearing up for the 23rd annual celebration of "America's Night Out Against Crime." The citywide kickoff will begin at 5 pm at the Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, 1100 Michigan Avenue, NE, with food, music, sports and games, crime prevention displays and other activities for participants of all ages. In addition, a coalition of 16 community groups will unveil a new "Light Up the Night" campaign that encourages homeowners to install and turn on bright, energy-efficient light bulbs from dusk until dawn every day. Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey, Ward 5 Councilmember Vincent Orange and other community leaders are expected to take part in the kickoff. In addition, communities across DC – in all seven police districts – have scheduled NNO events during the late afternoon and evening hours. For example, in PSA 706, residents of Atlantic Gardens and police are organizing a community block party in the 4100-4300 blocks of 3rd Street, SE. In PSA 303, the MPDC's Latino Liaison Unit and community leaders are holding their annual community festival at 18th Street and Columbia Road, NW, in the heart of Adams Morgan. And in the Second District, PSA 204 is holding its softball game and community cookout at the Guy Mason Recreation Center at Wisconsin Avenue and Calvert Street, NW.

- ① For a complete list of National Night Out events taking place in all seven police districts, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547053,mpdcNav_GID,1541,mpdcNav,_.asp
- ① Even if you can't participate in an organized National Night Out event, residents are encouraged to turn on their exterior lights on the evening of August 1 — as a show of neighborhood solidarity against crime. Learn more about NNO at:
www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/index.html
- ① To make its post-event report and awards application as comprehensive as possible, the MPDC would appreciate photographs, flyers or other documentation from local NNO events in DC. Send your materials to Kevin Palmer, MPDC, 300 Indiana Ave., NW, WDC 20001, or email him at:
kevin.palmer@dc.gov

NEW LAW EXTENDS DRUG FREE ZONE TIME PERIODS

For the last several years, the MPDC has been enforcing DC's Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone Law in areas of the city hit hard by street drug trafficking and abuse. Until now, however, any one Drug Free Zone could last for no longer than 120 hours — in other words, five consecutive days. But under the Mayor's Omnibus Public Safety legislation passed earlier this year by the DC Council and signed into law by Mayor Williams, the length of time for a Drug Free Zone has now been doubled, to up to 10 days. The Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone Act of 1996 provides police officers with an additional tool to protect the public from dangers associated with the sale, purchase or use of illegal drugs. A Drug Free Zone may be established by the Chief of Police, provided it meets certain criteria, particularly that there have been a disproportionately high number of drug-related crimes in that area. While the area is designated as a Drug Free Zone, any group of two or more persons congregating on public space for the purpose of participating in the use, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs within the boundaries of the zone, and who fails to disperse after being instructed to do so by a uniformed MPDC officer, will be subject to arrest. An arrest under the law can result in a fine of not more than \$300, imprisonment for not more than 180 days, or both. All acceptable group activities — such as distributing campaign literature, collecting names on petitions, discussing political or religious topics and the like — continue to be lawful within the Drug Free Zone.

① Learn more about this crime-fighting tool, and find listings of current and recent Drug Free Zones, by clicking on:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,Q,542244,mpdcNav_GID,1541,mpdcNav,|.asp

① The Omnibus law also grants the Chief the ability to establish Prostitution Free Zones in DC. The MPDC is currently developing policies and procedures for implementing this new law.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT MAKES ANOTHER ARREST IN DC

Recently, a 43-year-old Reisterstown, Maryland, thought was communicating with a 13-year-old girl in an Internet "chat room." After several discussions with the "girl," the man arranged to meet her in Northeast DC this past week, for the purpose of engaging in illicit conduct with the minor. But when he arrived in the 1300 block of Adams Street, NE, the man was met, not by a 13-year-old minor, but by members of the Metropolitan Police Department. He was placed under arrest and charged with violation of Title 18 of the United States Code, Traveling with the Intent to Engage in Illicit Conduct with a Minor. His arrest is the latest case made by the MPDC's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit. Part of the Police Department's Youth Investigations Branch, ICAC works to identify and arrest potential sexual predators who target young people using the Internet. In order to combat the growing problem of Internet sexual predators, members of the ICAC Unit enter "chat room" conversations in an attempt to intercept those attempting to entice juveniles. When those predators seek to make personal contact with minors, the ICAC Unit steps in. ICAC is part of a growing trend among local and state law enforcement: getting adults to think twice about trying to entice minors over the Internet, by raising the odds that the person on the other end may actually be a police officer.

① The MPDC maintains another tool to help people of all ages protect themselves and their families from sexual predators. The MPDC's Sex Offender Registry includes several hundred convicted sex offenders who are required to register with the police. Learn more about the program, and view registered sex offenders in your community, by going to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,540704,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

NEWS & NOTES

Talk with Chief Ramsey this Week. Chief Ramsey discusses the DC crime emergency and other public safety matters with the public during two upcoming media appearances. On Wednesday, August 2, from 4-5 pm, the Chief has his regular segment on News Channel 8's "News Talk" program. Then on Thursday, August 3, from 10-11 am, it's "Ask the Chief" – Chief Ramsey's monthly discussion on Washington Post Radio (1500 AM, 107.7 FM). Viewers and listeners are invited to call in with questions for the Chief.

May/June Court Reports. On a regular basis, members of the US Attorney's Office Community Prosecution Team publish a prosecution update for the police district to which they're assigned. These "court reports" provide general summary information about recent court cases that may be of interest to the public. The May/June court reports are now available online at www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 7/28/06

- ◆ 2006: 103
- ◆ 2005: 104
- ◆ % Change: -1.0%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 47.6% (49 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 7/22/06

- ◆ Total: 1,211
- ◆ Weapons: 31
- ◆ Robbery: 11
- ◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 16
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 74
- ◆ Narcotics: 232

Juvenile Activity week end. 7/22/06

- ◆ Total Arrests: 82
- ◆ Robbery: 7
- ◆ Weapons: 2
- ◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 12
- ◆ Curfew Violators: 292

Firearm Recoveries as of 7/26/06

- ◆ July: 163
- ◆ 2006 Total: 1,343

Traffic Fatalities as of 7/28/06

- ◆ 2006: 26
- ◆ 2005: 24
- ◆ % Change: +8.3%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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